

**Jaeger, Matthew C**

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**From:** Allen, Matthew  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 07, 2013 8:23 AM  
**To:** Sundin, Casey; Brownlee, Christopher; York, Matthew E  
**Cc:** Wilson, Ronald  
**Subject:** FW: May Day at Black Coffee

FYI...

**From:** Fowler, Chris  
**Sent:** Monday, May 06, 2013 10:13 AM  
**To:** Wilson, Ronald; Allen, Matthew; Lowe, Donnie  
**Cc:** O'Donnell, Sean  
**Subject:** RE: May Day at Black Coffee

Sounds good. I am forwarding this to Sean O'Donnell. Sean can you check into the 911 side of this and check?

Chris

**From:** Wilson, Ronald  
**Sent:** Monday, May 06, 2013 9:54 AM  
**To:** Allen, Matthew; Lowe, Donnie; Fowler, Chris  
**Subject:** FW: May Day at Black Coffee

Hi just spoke with Beth Hester and she will be calling Michael Wells to get a meeting date set up.

Captain Ron Wilson  
East Precinct Commander  
Seattle Police Department  
1519 12th Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98122-3907  
206-684-4348  
[www.seattle.gov/police/precincts/east](http://www.seattle.gov/police/precincts/east)  
<http://spdblotter.seattle.gov>



**From:** Michael Wells [<mailto:michael@caphillchamber.org>]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 06, 2013 9:27 AM  
**To:** Wilson, Ronald; Hester, Beth  
**Cc:** [jill@hunterscapital.com](mailto:jill@hunterscapital.com); Broadway Video  
**Subject:** FW: May Day at Black Coffee

More information for our discussion about the May Day aftermath. Beth, any word on a representative from the Mayor's office and a date for a meeting?

Best -

Michael

Michael Wells  
Executive Director  
Capitol Hill Chamber of Commerce  
p 206-328-6646  
[michael@caphillchamber.org](mailto:michael@caphillchamber.org)



*Not Your Daddy's Chamber*

**From:** Gamma Ray Games [<mailto:gammaraygamestore@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 05, 2013 11:18 AM  
**To:** Michael Wells  
**Subject:** May Day at Black Coffee

To Whom it may concern,

On Wednesday, May 1st, after breaking local business windows throughout my neighborhood, dozens of anarchist agitators descended upon my business, the Raygun Lounge's ( [gammaraygamestore.com](http://gammaraygamestore.com) ) building at 501 E Pine. They proceeded to kick my customers out of our bathroom, turn it into a pepper spray wash basin, and rotate back out on to the sidewalk to yell at the police, the neighbors and my customers, blocking the entrance to my business and creating a very threatening atmosphere for myself, my staff and my customers.

When I attempted to stop them myself, I was confronted by one of the anarchist collective owners of my neighboring business Black Coffee ( <http://blackcoffeecoop.com/> ) and aggressively informed that, "this is happening and there's noafetrmnthing you can do about it."

When I called 911 to get help, I was told by the operator that, "unless they're breaking something," the police were too busy and wouldn't come. Completely abandoned by the city and law enforcement, I locked my business down with employees and customers inside and guarded the gate myself. As a 41 year old small business owner and father of two who needed to get up early the next morning to help my disabled son get on the bus, I found the idea of me having to physically guard my business without any police support whatsoever completely outrageous.

When my hostess attempted to use our bathroom she was surrounded by angry men and returned quickly, crying with shaking hands and apologized to myself and my customers that she had PTSD

and being suddenly surrounded in the bathroom like that reminded her of being assaulted at the Occupy Seattle camp a year before.

At this point, I gave in and shut down my business early on what had been a busy night at yet another loss to myself and my business as the result of activities going on in and around Black Coffee and escorted everyone out through the angry crowd. As we were leaving, the Black Coffee staff were setting up amplified PA equipment and, according to police who rode by several times later that evening without bothering to stop them, they had a completely undisturbed victory party until 3am.

To say that I am disappointed and furious at our local police, government and chamber of commerce for completely failing to in any way monitor or deter the local epicenter of anarchist organization for the city of Seattle on the very night that they had publicly announced that they were going to wreck the city and hold a victory party is an understatement of the highest order. But I am not surprised, because events like the one I described above *happen all the time* to the residents of Pine near Summit now and despite our constant reporting of them, we are getting no protection, support or acknowledgement from the police, the city or our local chamber for what we're facing.

For the past 6 months, since they opened a "book store" (which has never sold or even housed a book) in a space zoned non-food retail, the members of Occupy Seattle's coffee shop have set up an 18 hour/day, 7 day/week agitation operation. We've had the bathroom that our lease forces us to share with them completely covered in angry anti-establishment graffiti (pics of which are available and were sent to the landlord and police months ago) and repainted twice, they've hosted numerous live all-ages punk rock and hip hop shows that draw massive crowds well beyond any fire codes and generate noise levels way beyond any legal limits, they've set up an all ages bar and served the cheapest beer in the neighborhood to the local homeless population, they've provided shelter to numerous criminals (police are afraid to enter Black Coffee and the local criminals know this and dart in and out to break off pursuits), our building has been broken into once and had nearly every business in it burgled, every gate and door have been tampered with and/or broken, the elevators have all had to be locked down limiting the upper floors access to prevent Black Coffee's guests from regularly peeing in them because they can't gain regular access to our shared first floor bathroom because it is often engaged for long periods by underage drug users to get high, change clothes and occasionally have sex in.

All of this and more has been reported to our landlord and Community Police Team. Though they both assure me that action is being taken on all fronts to resolve the situation, May Day's complete takeover of the building makes it clear that they are failing and that we have a very dangerous, well documented and highly public community safety failure on our hands.

As recent comments from the CHS Blog's coverage of the May Day events reveal, everyone in the neighborhood knows what is going on and is going to become increasingly vocal about it until something is done;

from <http://www.capitolhillseattle.com/2013/04/seattle-police-prepared-for-may-day-2013-protest-on-capitol-hill/> prior to May Day's events

*The people who run the Co-op seem like very nice people, and they certainly mean well, but I am sure I am not the only who has been harassed by their customers on the street or had to listen to the shouting matches from the clientele that goes there. I want these people to do well, but yes, they are definitely doing a lot to harm the neighborhood. I also live on the block and now have to cross the street instead of walking in front of the place because of the people camped out front half the time.*

*Inside there are sometimes threatening shouting matches but the proprietors don't call the cops because they say their clients have enough trouble or it wouldn't be a nice thing to do.*

*I'm another long-time resident of the Black Coffee block, and I wholeheartedly agree with Frustrated and others above. The block dramatically changed when Black Coffee moved in. I also believe it's actively hurting nearby businesses (Raygun in particular) through continued harassment of people on the street by the crowd of regulars that now Occupies The Sidewalk. I have no problem with their cause. But the way they operate Black Coffee is only doing harm to their image and cause; instead of being the friendly, open environment it could be, they've created something divisive and disruptive. They've pissed off many of their neighbors, and given an unwelcome sense of unease to an area that could've been receptive to their goals. It's a far cry from their stated mission to create*

*To Rachel, who says that places like Black Coffee exist for people to be shouting inside them and creating disruption—yes, they exist for discussion, and I do believe discussion and community happen there—no, they should not exist for people to go into and threaten other people, telling them they will “cut them” if they go out onto the sidewalk. That's a criminal threat, and if those kind of patrons are not stopped soon only hooligans will go there.*

*and from <http://www.capitolhillseattle.com/2013/05/capitol-hill-may-day-2013-open-thread/#more-2067103395> following May Day's events*

*Is anybody concerned that some of the people that perpetuated this violence took refuge at Black Coffee Co-op? Are we concerned that a “local” business is harboring these people? What about the owner of the building, Ron Amundson? Does he support anarchist street violence? He allowed anarchists to create a shelter in his building, so it makes me wonder.*

*I don't know if anyone is still following this, but I live near there and am very concerned about any role they may have played and their role in bringing more trouble to the neighborhood just in general. I am investigating what can be done about businesses that are not good neighbors and may write letters to their landlord or take other actions like that. I hope I am not alone, but I am also hesitant because a certain percentage of the people that support that cause and/or go there are part of a criminal element (and for people who want to start namecalling me—breaking windows is a criminal action, as is throwing things at cops, as is selling drugs on the street—which I have seen some of their patrons doing) and so I don't want to be targeted. I think concerned people should do something to address this—and if the owners (or whatever they want to call themselves) of Black Coffee want to address the problem themselves, so much the better. I have no problem with people having different viewpoints. I just don't want it bringing down my neighborhood.*

*You certainly are not alone. Those of us that live in the vicinity of Black Coffee do know that they, and especially many of their clientele, are not good neighbors. As a property owner & neighborhood resident, I'm well aware that crime, drugs, and graffiti are on the uptick since Travelers moved out and BC moved in. I appreciate the SPD for keeping an eye on this place and have also contacted the building owner.*

*I and the rest of the immediate neighborhood surrounding Pine and Summit have been incredibly patient with the city's organizational failure to recognize and address the numerous threats emanating from the Black Coffee Co-op but after 6 months of inaction and the explosion of aggression and violence that occurred last week, our patience is nearing an end.*

*Thank you for taking the time to hear our concerns. Please help us in any way that you can as the situation will only continue to worsen if you do not.*

-Eric Logan

Long term Capitol Hill Resident  
& Owner Operator, Gamma Ray Games & The Raygun Lounge

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Eric Logan  
Gamma Ray Games  
411 E. Pine, Seattle  
206-838-9445  
[gammaraygamestore.com](http://gammaraygamestore.com)  
[gammaraygamestore@gmail.com](mailto:gammaraygamestore@gmail.com)

**Jaeger, Matthew C**

---

**From:** Brownlee, Christopher  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 16, 2013 1:18 PM  
**To:** Sundin, Casey; House, Gerald; York, Matthew E  
**Subject:** FW: this week's anarchy report  
**Attachments:** anarchofront.JPG; anarchoback.JPG; no snitching.JPG

Mmmkay.

Working on getting a meeting together with Ron (the property owner for next Monday). This is only a FYI.

*Ofc. C. Brownlee #6954  
East Precinct - Community Police Team  
1519 12 AV  
Seattle, WA 98122-3907  
Desk: 206.684.4371  
Fax: 206.684.4591*

**From:** Gamma Ray Games [<mailto:gammaraygamestore@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 15, 2013 8:27 PM  
**To:** Brownlee, Christopher; [r.amundson@msn.com](mailto:r.amundson@msn.com)  
**Subject:** this week's anarchy report

Since we had our last series of meetings, the anarchists have stuck "no snitching" stickers in the bathroom (photos attached) and begun spitting on all of my businesses' windows on a nightly basis.

Last night one of the anarchists came by solely to give one of my employees a pamphlet entitled "How to Justify Workplace Theft" (photo attached). It explains how you and I (especially you, Ron) are criminals usurping society and should be punished by having our all of our customers and employees actively steal from us until we're put out of business for good for our crimes against society. I kept it for posterity should either of you like a copy.

All of this, and so much more is coming out of a BOOKSTORE that now boasts a HAPPY HOUR featuring \$3 beers and cider ( <https://www.facebook.com/BlackCoffeeCoop/posts/571599849524935> ). Why that's some of the cheapest beer and cider on all of Capitol Hill and it's being served in an all-ages venue that caters to the homeless, angry and mentally ill. What a great idea!

I hope you'll pardon me if I seem frustrated that my landlord and local police are not only allowing a completely unlicensed all-ages hard-left marijuana bar to host weekly live punk rock and hip hop shows without any repercussions but are requiring me to share my customers' bathroom with them while they do so. Did I say frustrated? That was very measured of me.

This Saturday, I'll be sharing my bathroom and sidewalk with a live 4/20 DOOM METAL concert featuring Un & Swamp Heavy that Black Coffee have billed by saying, "Come drink beer and listen to totally sweet bands, bro," on their totally public events page ( <http://blackcoffeecoop.com/event-calendar/> ) which anyone, even law enforcement professionals and landlords, can see at any time. Which means I'll be paying for extra staff, as usual, just to politely ask crowds of angry black clad metal heads to please stop smoking marijuana *right* in front of our door. *Again*. Hopefully they won't get stabbed for doing so. Because that's the kind of thing I have to be worried about happening to my employees now.

As always, if there's anything, *anything at all* that I can do to improve the situation, just let me know. Seriously. Let me know. And if you're ever not sure what you can do to improve the situation, just let me know that too. I'll write you a list.

Hanging on in spite of the apparent hopelessness of the situation,

-Eric

--

Eric Logan

Gamma Ray Games

411 E. Pine, Seattle

206-838-9445

[gammaraygamestore.com](http://gammaraygamestore.com)

[gammaraygamestore@gmail.com](mailto:gammaraygamestore@gmail.com)

## Jaeger, Matthew C

---

**From:** Brownlee, Christopher  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 02, 2013 4:45 PM  
**To:** Sundin, Casey; York, Matthew E  
**Subject:** FW: Mayday at Black Coffee

The latest e-mail from Gamma Ray Games. I'd really like to see the CCT hit them up this weekend since they're out and about and not dealing with hookahs - specifically the health code issues surrounding the bathrooms.

---

Officer Christopher Brownlee #6954  
East Precinct - Community Police Team  
1519 12 AV  
Seattle, WA 98122-3907  
Desk: 206.684.4371  
Fax: 206.684.4591

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From: Gamma Ray Games [gammaraygamestore@gmail.com]  
Sent: Thursday, May 02, 2013 15:05  
To: Brownlee, Christopher  
Subject: Mayday at Black Coffee

Hi Christopher,

It saddens me that after breaking windows all along Pike and Pine, the perpetrators were able to throw themselves a publicly pre-announced victory party at Black Coffee without any police interference whatsoever.

(Black Coffee wanted everybody to know the shop will be closed so the co-op's members can celebrate the important day and are holding the 9 PM event as a private gathering.

Announced at 2:30 in the afternoon: <http://www.capitolhillseattle.com/2013/04/seattle-police-prepared-for-may-day-2013-protest-on-capitol-hill/>)

For that party, dozens and dozens of agitators came into the building at 8pm and kicked all of my patrons out of the bathroom for the rest of the evening so they could wash pepper spray off of themselves onto the floor before going out on the sidewalk and yelling loudly at the police. I had to lock my customers in and watch as my hostess wept and trembled in front of us as she apologized that she had PTSD and seeing the anarchists bar us in reminded her of a time the she was assaulted at Occupy.

Then the anarchists set up their PA system and threw a "fuck the police" concert. When we and other neighbors called 911 for help, we were told that "unless something is being broken, there's nothing we can do tonight."

Chris, if the police won't come, even when people whew threw rocks at them all day are scaring everyone in the neighborhood, what the hell are we supposed to do?

I went into this business with a good plan, a clear market and a solid cash flow. Now I'm now making plans to shut doors. I'm meeting with my attorneys tomorrow to look at what I have to do to legally leave my lease. I estimate that I currently have three months left before the anarchist take over of 501 Pine breaks my family's financial back and forces us out.

And it is a take over, as these comments from the above-cited article make clear:

The people who run the Co-op seem like very nice people, and they certainly mean well, but I am sure I am not the only who has been harassed by their customers on the street or had to listen to the shouting matches from the clientele that goes there. I want these people to do well, but yes, they are definitely doing a lot to harm the neighborhood. I also live on the block and now have to cross the street instead of walking in front of the place because of the people camped out front half the time. Inside there are sometimes threatening shouting matches but the proprietors don't call the cops because they say their clients have enough trouble or it wouldn't be a nice thing to do.

I'm another long-time resident of the Black Coffee block, and I wholeheartedly agree with Frustrated and others above. The block dramatically changed when Black Coffee moved in. I also believe it's actively hurting nearby businesses (Raygun in particular) through continued harassment of people on the street by the crowd of regulars that now Occupies The Sidewalk. I have no problem with their cause. But the way they operate Black Coffee is only doing harm to their image and cause; instead of being the friendly, open environment it could be, they've created something divisive and disruptive. They've pissed off many of their neighbors, and given an unwelcome sense of unease to an area that could've been receptive to their goals. It's a far cry from their stated mission to create

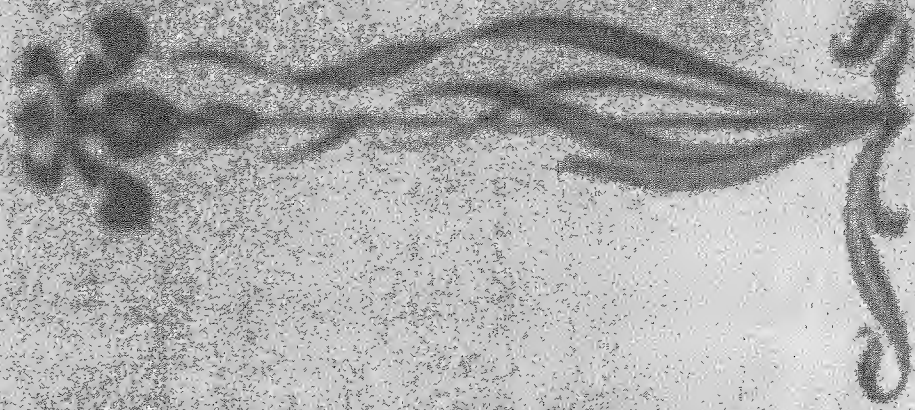
Every month I continue to pay Ron rent and the city taxes (a LOT of city taxes) and both of you are just watching me and my neighbors go down right now. I realize that the SPD is concerned about being responsible for its practices and image and I respect you all for it, I do, but I'm going to lose my business if someone doesn't get me some help soon.

Do you have any good news for me? Any at all? Seriously. Because these guys are brazen now and last night you guys showed them just how much they can get away with and they're not the kind of people to step back from that and I'm right in their line of fire without 911 support. And they know it.

-Eric

Eric Logan  
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HOW  
TO  
JUSTIFY  
WORKPLACE  
THEFT





never  
snitch.  
over.



31 EAT POUCE B  
B

## Jaeger, Matthew C

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**From:** Brownlee, Christopher  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2013 10:01 AM  
**To:** Sundin, Casey; House, Gerald  
**Cc:** York, Matthew E  
**Subject:** FW: Hip Hop and Punk Rock Shows at the Black Coffee Co-op

I haven't responded to Eric yet, but will by CBD. Thinking this might need to be put on the CCT list. I'd also like to make sure we have support from our chain of command past our LT and CPT (I'm certain we do to that level at least) if enforcement action is to be taken with these particular folks.

*Ofc. C. Brownlee #6954  
East Precinct - Community Police Team  
1519 12 AV  
Seattle, WA 98122-3907  
Desk: 206.684.4371  
Fax: 206.684.4591*

**From:** Gamma Ray Games [<mailto:gammaraygamestore@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 15, 2013 4:29 PM  
**To:** [r.amundson@msn.com](mailto:r.amundson@msn.com)  
**Cc:** Brownlee, Christopher  
**Subject:** Hip Hop and Punk Rock Shows at the Black Coffee Co-op

In addition to the "Fuck Permits, Fuck Grand Juries, & Fuck Cops" rally at Cal Anderson Park this evening that the staff and ownership of Black Coffee will inevitably be participating in tonight ( <http://pugctsoundanarchists.org/content/fuck-permits-fuck-grand-juries-fuck-cops> ) they are also, according to their website, <http://blackcoffeecoop.com/> , hosting a live Hip Hop Night tonight and a live touring Punk Rock Show from California tomorrow night.

Which forces me to ask how are a group of anarchists able to run completely unlicensed, all ages shows in space designated by the city as a "Book Store" that has no books for sale in it? Further I have to ask, how are they able, without any question or oversight, to serve alcohol at these events, especially in light of the fact that their bartender apparently has a standing warrant out for his arrest?

I'm really trying to be patient and understanding. I am. But it's difficult to continue bothering to run my legal business in a space where every single weekend the building, bathroom and sidewalk of 501 East Pine at the corner of Pine and Summit devolve into an all-ages homeless open air drug market and everyone with a stake in seeing the situation cleaned up appears to be trying their absolute hardest to turn a blind eye to the wanton criminality that the situation is flagrantly generating.

So I have to ask. Are there actually steps being taken to reign in the unprecedented criminality pouring out of the Black Coffee Co-op on a regular consistent basis every single weekend or do I need to look for help in dealing with this ridiculously out of control situation elsewhere?

-Eric

--

Eric Logan

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[gammaraygamestore@gmail.com](mailto:gammaraygamestore@gmail.com)

## Jaeger, Matthew C

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**From:** Brownlee, Christopher  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 02, 2013 5:05 PM  
**To:** York, Matthew E; Sundin, Casey  
**Subject:** RE: Mayday at Black Coffee

Thank you, Sir!

---

Officer Christopher Brownlee #6954  
East Precinct - Community Police Team  
1519 12 AV  
Seattle, WA 98122-3907  
Desk: 206.684.4371  
Fax: 206.684.4591

---

From: York, Matthew E  
Sent: Thursday, May 02, 2013 16:47  
To: Brownlee, Christopher; Sundin, Casey  
Subject: Re: Mayday at Black Coffee

I am following up on this with cct

----- Original Message -----

From: Brownlee, Christopher  
Sent: Thursday, May 02, 2013 04:44 PM Pacific Standard Time  
To: Sundin, Casey; York, Matthew E  
Subject: FW: Mayday at Black Coffee

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## Jaeger, Matthew C

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**From:** Wilson, Ronald  
**Sent:** Monday, May 06, 2013 10:20 AM  
**To:** York, Matthew E  
**Subject:** FW: May Day at Black Coffee

FYL....left you off again.

Captain Ron Wilson  
East Precinct Commander  
Seattle Police Department  
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[www.seattle.gov/police/precincts/east](http://www.seattle.gov/police/precincts/east)  
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**Cc:** O'Donnell, Sean  
**Subject:** RE: May Day at Black Coffee

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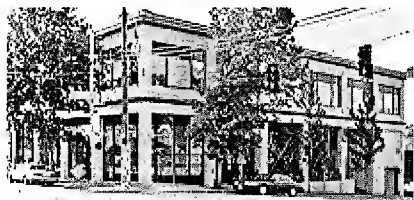
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Michael

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Executive Director  
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**Subject:** May Day at Black Coffee

To Whom it may concern,

On Wednesday, May 1st, after breaking local business windows throughout my neighborhood, dozens of anarchist agitators descended upon my business, the Raygun Lounge's ( [gammaraygamestore.com](http://gammaraygamestore.com) ) building at 501 E Pine. They proceeded to kick my customers out of our bathroom, turn it into a pepper spray wash basin, and rotate back out on to the sidewalk to yell at the police, the neighbors and my customers, blocking the entrance to my business and creating a very threatening atmosphere for myself, my staff and my customers.

When I attempted to stop them myself, I was confronted by one of the anarchist collective owners of my neighboring business Black Coffee ( <http://blackcoffeecoop.com/> ) and aggressively informed that, "this is happening and there's noaftetrmnthng you can do about it."

When I called 911 to get help, I was told by the operator that, "unless they're breaking something," the police were too busy and wouldn't come. Completely abandoned by the city and law enforcement, I locked my business down with employees and customers inside and guarded the gate myself. As a 41 year old small business owner and father of two who needed to get up early the next morning to help my disabled son get on the bus, I found the idea of me having to physically guard my business without any police support whatsoever completely outrageous.

When my hostess attempted to use our bathroom she was surrounded by angry men and returned quickly, crying with shaking hands and apologized to myself and my customers that she had PTSD and being suddenly surrounded in the bathroom like that reminded her of being assaulted at the Occupy Seattle camp a year before.

At this point, I gave in and shut down my business early on what had been a busy night at yet another loss to myself and my business as the result of activities going on in and around Black Coffee and escorted everyone out through the angry crowd. As we were leaving, the Black Coffee staff were setting up amplified PA equipment and, according to police who rode by several times later that evening without bothering to stop them, they had a completely undisturbed victory party until 3am.

To say that I am disappointed and furious at our local police, government and chamber of commerce for completely failing to in any way monitor or deter the local epicenter of anarchist organization for the city of Seattle on the very night that they had publicly announced that they were going to wreck the city and hold a victory party is an understatement of the highest order. But I am not surprised, because events like the one I described above *happen all the time* to the residents of Pine near Summit now and despite our constant reporting of them, we are getting no protection, support or acknowledgement from the police, the city or our local chamber for what we're facing.

For the past 6 months, since they opened a "book store" (which has never sold or even housed a book) in a space zoned non-food retail, the members of Occupy Seattle's coffee shop have set up an 18 hour/day, 7 day/week agitation operation. We've had the bathroom that our lease forces us to share with them completely covered in angry anti-establishment graffiti (pics of which are available and were sent to the landlord and police months ago) and repainted twice, they've hosted numerous live all-ages punk rock and hip hop shows that draw massive crowds well beyond any fire codes and generate noise levels way beyond any legal limits, they've set up an all ages bar and served the cheapest beer in the neighborhood to the local homeless population, they've provided shelter to numerous criminals (police are afraid to enter Black Coffee and the local criminals know this and dart in and out to break off pursuits), our building has been broken into once and had nearly every business in it burgled, every gate and door have been tampered with and/or broken, the elevators have all had to be locked down limiting the upper floors access to prevent Black Coffee's guests from regularly peeing in them because they can't gain regular access to our shared first floor bathroom

because it is often engaged for long periods by underage drug users to get high, change clothes and occasionally have sex in.

All of this and more has been reported to our landlord and Community Police Team. Though they both assure me that action is being taken on all fronts to resolve the situation, May Day's complete takeover of the building makes it clear that they are failing and that we have a very dangerous, well documented and highly public community safety failure on our hands.

As recent comments from the CHS Blog's coverage of the May Day events reveal, everyone in the neighborhood knows what is going on and is going to become increasingly vocal about it until something is done;

from <http://www.capitolhillseattle.com/2013/04/seattle-police-prepared-for-may-day-2013-protest-on-capitol-hill/> prior to May Day's events

*The people who run the Co-op seem like very nice people, and they certainly mean well, but I am sure I am not the only who has been harassed by their customers on the street or had to listen to the shouting matches from the clientele that goes there. I want these people to do well, but yes, they are definitely doing a lot to harm the neighborhood. I also live on the block and now have to cross the street instead of walking in front of the place because of the people camped out front half the time. Inside there are sometimes threatening shouting matches but the proprietors don't call the cops because they say their clients have enough trouble or it wouldn't be a nice thing to do.*

*I'm another long-time resident of the Black Coffee block, and I wholeheartedly agree with Frustrated and others above. The block dramatically changed when Black Coffee moved in. I also believe it's actively hurting nearby businesses (Raygun in particular) through continued harassment of people on the street by the crowd of regulars that now Occupies The Sidewalk. I have no problem with their cause. But the way they operate Black Coffee is only doing harm to their image and cause; instead of being the friendly, open environment it could be, they've created something divisive and disruptive. They've pissed off many of their neighbors, and given an unwelcome sense of unease to an area that could've been receptive to their goals. It's a far cry from their stated mission to create*

*To Rachel, who says that places like Black Coffee exist for people to be shouting inside them and creating disruption—yes, they exist for discussion, and I do believe discussion and community happen there—no, they should not exist for people to go into and threaten other people, telling them they will “cut them” if they go out onto the sidewalk. That's a criminal threat, and if those kind of patrons are not stopped soon only hooligans will go there.*

and from <http://www.capitolhillseattle.com/2013/05/capitol-hill-may-day-2013-open-thread/#more-2067103395> following May Day's events

*Is anybody concerned that some of the people that perpetuated this violence took refuge at Black Coffee Co-op? Are we concerned that a “local” business is harboring these people? What about the owner of the building, Ron Amundson? Does he support anarchist street violence? He allowed anarchists to create a shelter in his building, so it makes me wonder.*

*I don't know if anyone is still following this, but I live near there and am very concerned about any role they may have played and their role in bringing more trouble to the neighborhood just in general. I am investigating what can be done about businesses that are not good neighbors and may write letters to their landlord or take other actions like that. I hope I am not alone, but I am also hesitant because a certain percentage of the people that support that cause and/or go there are part of a criminal*

*element (and for people who want to start namecalling me—breaking windows is a criminal action, as is throwing things at cops, as is selling drugs on the street—which I have seen some of their patrons doing) and so I don't want to be targeted. I think concerned people should do something to address this—and if the owners (or whatever they want to call themselves) of Black Coffee want to address the problem themselves, so much the better. I have no problem with people having different viewpoints. I just don't want it bringing down my neighborhood.*

*You certainly are not alone. Those of us that live in the vicinity of Black Coffee do know that they, and especially many of their clientele, are not good neighbors. As a property owner & neighborhood resident, I'm well aware that crime, drugs, and graffiti are on the uptick since Travelers moved out and BC moved in. I appreciate the SPD for keeping an eye on this place and have also contacted the building owner.*

I and the rest of the immediate neighborhood surrounding Pine and Summit have been incredibly patient with the city's organizational failure to recognize and address the numerous threats emanating from the Black Coffee Co-op but after 6 months of inaction and the explosion of aggression and violence that occurred last week, our patience is nearing an end.

Thank you for taking the time to hear our concerns. Please help us in any way that you can as the situation will only continue to worsen if you do not.

-Eric Logan

Long term Capitol Hill Resident  
& Owner Operator, Gamma Ray Games & The Raygun Lounge

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